

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 599

Introduced by Assembly Member Gordon

February 17, 2005

An act to amend Section 5600.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 599, as introduced, Gordon. Mental health account: primary goals: California veterans.

Existing law sets forth the primary goals of the mental health account of a local mental health trust fund, including, but not limited to, services for seriously emotionally disturbed children and adolescents, and adults and older adults who have a seriously mental disorder.

This bill would specifically include within this priority, veterans who are mentally ill.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 5600.3 of the Welfare and Institutions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 5600.3. To the extent resources are available, the primary goal
- 4 of use of funds deposited in the mental health account of the
- 5 local health and welfare trust fund should be to serve the target
- 6 populations identified in the following categories, which shall not
- 7 be construed as establishing an order of priority:

1 (a) (1) Seriously emotionally disturbed children or
2 adolescents.

3 (2) For the purposes of this part, “seriously emotionally
4 disturbed children or adolescents” means minors under the age of
5 18 years who have a mental disorder as identified in the most
6 recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental
7 Disorders, other than a primary substance use disorder or
8 developmental disorder, which results in behavior inappropriate
9 to the child’s age according to expected developmental norms.
10 Members of this target population shall meet one or more of the
11 following criteria:

12 (A) As a result of the mental disorder the child has substantial
13 impairment in at least two of the following areas: self-care,
14 school functioning, family relationships, or ability to function in
15 the community; and either of the following occur:

16 (i) The child is at risk of removal from home or has already
17 been removed from the home.

18 (ii) The mental disorder and impairments have been present
19 for more than six months or are likely to continue for more than
20 one year without treatment.

21 (B) The child displays one of the following: psychotic
22 features, risk of suicide or risk of violence due to a mental
23 disorder.

24 (C) The child meets special education eligibility requirements
25 under Chapter 26.5 (commencing with Section 7570) of Division
26 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

27 (b) (1) Adults and older adults who have a serious mental
28 disorder.

29 (2) For the purposes of this part “serious mental disorder”
30 means a mental disorder which is severe in degree and persistent
31 in duration, which may cause behavioral functioning which
32 interferes substantially with the primary activities of daily living,
33 and which may result in an inability to maintain stable
34 adjustment and independent functioning without treatment,
35 support, and rehabilitation for a long or indefinite period of time.
36 Serious mental disorders include, but are not limited to,
37 schizophrenia, as well as major affective disorders or other
38 severely disabling mental disorders. This section shall not be
39 construed to exclude persons with a serious mental disorder and

1 a diagnosis of substance abuse, developmental disability, or other
2 physical or mental disorder.

3 (3) Members of this target population shall meet all of the
4 following criteria:

5 (A) The person has a mental disorder as identified in the most
6 recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental
7 Disorders, other than a substance use disorder or developmental
8 disorder or acquired traumatic brain injury pursuant to
9 subdivision (a) of Section 4354 unless that person also has a
10 serious mental disorder as defined in paragraph (2).

11 (B) (i) As a result of the mental disorder the person has
12 substantial functional impairments or symptoms, or a psychiatric
13 history demonstrating that without treatment there is an imminent
14 risk of decompensation to having substantial impairments or
15 symptoms.

16 (ii) For the purposes of this part, “functional impairment”
17 means being substantially impaired as the result of a mental
18 disorder in independent living, social relationships, vocational
19 skills, or physical condition.

20 (C) As a result of a mental functional impairment and
21 circumstances the person is likely to become so disabled as to
22 require public assistance, services, or entitlements.

23 (4) For the purpose of organizing outreach and treatment
24 options, to the extent resources are available, this target
25 population includes, but is not limited to, persons who are any of
26 the following:

27 (A) Homeless persons who are mentally ill.

28 (B) Persons evaluated by appropriately licensed persons as
29 requiring care in acute treatment facilities including state
30 hospitals, acute inpatient facilities, institutes for mental disease,
31 and crisis residential programs.

32 (C) Persons arrested or convicted of crimes.

33 (D) Persons who require acute treatment as a result of a first
34 episode of mental illness with psychotic features.

35 (E) *California veterans who are mentally ill.*

36 (c) Adults or older adults who require or are at risk of
37 requiring acute psychiatric inpatient care, residential treatment,
38 or outpatient crisis intervention because of a mental disorder with
39 symptoms of psychosis, suicidality, or violence.

- 1 (d) Persons who need brief treatment as a result of a natural
- 2 disaster or severe local emergency.

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